

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending.

Claim 1 is directed to a system for mounting capable of high-precision alignment of a first element relative to a second element, the system comprising: at least one post having a first end and a second end, wherein the first end has a first end diameter, and wherein the second end has a second end diameter; a first element having the first end affixed thereto; and a second element having at least one hole, wherein the hole has a hole diameter which is greater than the second end diameter such that the second end is positioned within the hole, wherein a gap is provided within the hole, wherein the gap is between the second end and the second element, wherein a material is provided within the gap that serves to affix the second end to the second element.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action mailed July 28, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Dewey, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,853,407). However, none of the features underlined in the paragraph above are shown or suggested by Dewey, Jr. In view of the absence of such teachings, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 1 is neither shown nor suggested by the cited prior art. For example, the Examiner alleges Dewey, Jr. "discloses the claimed invention." and points to Dewey, Jr.'s Figure 1 "...for the mounting system comprising at least one post (24), a first element (25) and a second element (26)." However, Applicant submits Dewey, Jr.'s shaft 24 is not an element designed for fixation purposes. In contrast, shaft 24 is a rotational axle specifically designed for rotational purposes. More specifically, shaft 24 is intended to rotate such that periscope optics 25 and detector 26 (which are both fixedly secured to shaft 24) are aligned at various positions/times for sequential illumination of cells 20, 21, and 22 (Dewey, Jr.'s col. 4, lines 9-19). Since periscope optics 25 and detector 26 are both fixedly secured to shaft 24, the periscope optics 25 moves directly in synch with the detector 26 upon rotation of shaft 24. Therefore, no relative movement between

the periscope optics 25 and detector 26 occurs. Thus, alignment of a first element relative to a second element is not taught by Dewey, Jr. as per claim 1.

Additionally, the Examiner acknowledges the shaft 24 is fixedly secured to both the periscope optics 25 and detector 26. However, Dewey, Jr. does not mention that the shaft is connected either to the periscope optics 25 or detector 26 via a hole (i.e. within the periscope optics 25 or detector 26) as expressly claimed in claim 1. Further, since Dewey, Jr. does not mention providing a hole in the periscope optics 25 or detector 26 for positioning shaft 24 therewithin, there clearly cannot be a teaching of the claimed "gap" or claimed "material" within the gap as expressly claimed in claim 1.

For at least the above distinctions, Applicant submits the present invention as claimed in claim 1 is functionally significantly different than Dewey, Jr.'s device. Therefore, the teachings of Dewey, Jr. do not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

With respect to the "hollow post(s)" limitations in claims 8-10, 22, 23, and 28, Dewey, Jr. does not mention (nor does he teach) that shaft 24 is hollow and therefore does not teach this limitation. Moreover, in paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner alleges that "A close inspection of figure 1's element (24) shows a second hollow post at least partly within a first hollow post...". In response, Applicant respectfully submits that it appears that the Examiner may be interpreting shaft 24 incorrectly. The Examiner may be interpreting a portion of the shaft located between the chain/sprocket element 28 and detector 26 as a second (hollow) post. However, the Examiner's interpretation is not accurate as Dewey, Jr. clearly teaches shaft 24 being a single continuous element extending from periscope optics 25 to detector 26 (see Dewey, Jr.'s col. 3, line 68 - col. 4, line 5; col. 7, lines 20-21; and alternative embodiments illustrated in Figures 3 and 4). Thus, Dewey, Jr. fails to teach the use of 1 (or 2) hollow post(s)

as expressly claimed in claims 8-10, 22, 23, and 28. As such, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Regarding the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully submits the Examiner has failed to show any teaching (i.e. by way of application of prior art) and is completely silent with respect to numerous limitations in the remaining claims. The following exemplary limitations have not been specifically addressed by the Examiner:

claim 2: material capable of being in a deformable state and a solid state;

claim 8: bolt; and counter-bore having a threaded-hole;

claim 10: hollow post surrounding an optics path;

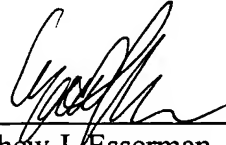
claim 11: dam; and

claim 37: second end being at least partly spherical.

Since the Examiner's argument provided in paragraph 2 of the Office Action doesn't address these and other limitations, and since the teachings of Dewey, Jr. do not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention in these and other claims, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that pending independent claims 1, 22, and 37 are in condition for allowance. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the remaining claims are allowable, because such claims depend from an allowable base claim. Reconsideration and further examination of the present application is therefore requested, and a notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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